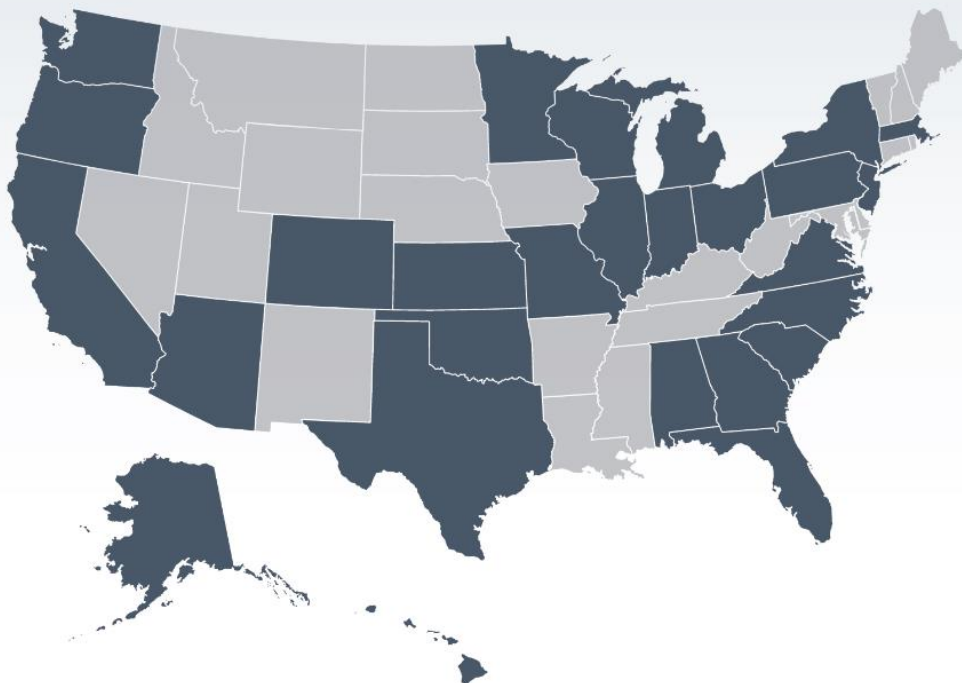


# TERROR THREAT SNAPSHOT

AUGUST 2018

## THE PERSISTENT TERROR THREAT TO AMERICA



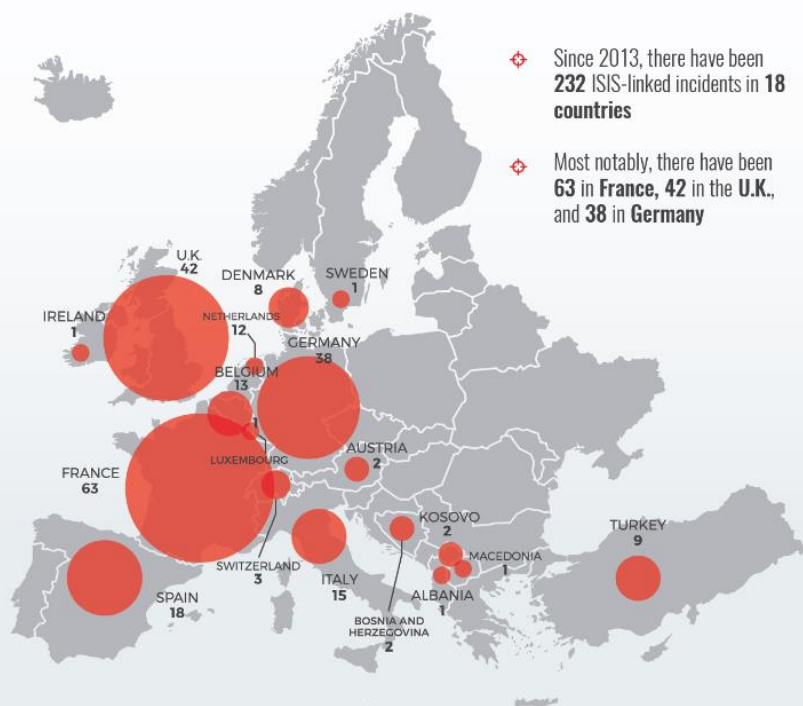
Since 2013, there have been

**157 HOMEGROWN  
JIHADIST CASES IN  
30 STATES FOR...**

- ✓ PLOTS TO ATTACK
- ✓ OVERSEAS TRAVEL
- ✓ FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- ✓ LYING TO AUTHORITIES
- ✓ WEAPONS CHARGES

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

## ISIS' TERROR CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE



Since 2013, there have been **232 ISIS-linked incidents in 18 countries**

Most notably, there have been **63 in France, 42 in the U.K., and 38 in Germany**

## ISIS-LINKED PLOTS AGAINST THE WEST SINCE 2013



**82 cases** where ISIS used or attempted to build or use **EXPLOSIVES**



**59 cases** where ISIS used an **EDGED WEAPON**



**22 cases** where ISIS used a **VEHICLE** as a weapon

This document is produced by the Majority Staff of the House Homeland Security Committee. It is based on information culled from open source materials. Plots and attacks utilizing multiple weapons are included in the totals for each weapon.

## KEY POINTS<sup>1</sup>

- ♦ [July 30, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for a vehicle attack on a group of international cyclists in Tajikistan, which left four dead. The cyclists, two from the United States, one from the Netherlands, and one from Switzerland, were rammed by a vehicle before survivors were stabbed and shot.
- ♦ [July 2, 2018](#): Amir S., 38, and Nasimeh N., 33, Belgian nationals of Iranian heritage, were arrested when police in Brussels, Belgium stopped them and found more than a pound of TATP explosive and a detonator in their vehicle. Two other men have been arrested in connection with the couple, one in France and one in Germany. The man arrested in Germany has been reported as a diplomatic attaché to the Iranian embassy in Vienna, Austria. The four have been arrested for attempting to carry out an attack on a rally being held by Iranian opposition groups in Paris, France. The rally had several high-profile attendees including, Rudy Giuliani, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, former New Jersey Sen. Bob Toricelli, and former FBI Director Louis Freeh.
- ♦ [July 24, 2018](#): Ibraheem Izzy Musaibli, 28, of Dearborn, Michigan, was charged with providing material support to ISIS. Musaibli was detained by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and transferred to U.S. custody. Musaibli allegedly provided support to ISIS from April 2015 to June 2018.
- ♦ [July 24, 2018](#): Samantha Elhassani, 32, of Indiana, was charged with making false statements to the FBI. Elhassani was also transferred from SDF custody to U.S. law enforcement, and will have her hearing scheduled at a later date. She was accompanied by her four children, who are being cared for by the Indiana Department of Child Services.
- ♦ U.S. District Judge Staci Yandle [rejected the government's request](#) to strip Iyman Faris, 49, originally of Pakistan, of his citizenship. Faris is currently serving a 20-year sentence for plotting to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge. A court filing argued that Faris lied on his immigration papers in 1999, however Judge Yandle stated that there was insufficient evidence to prove that his misrepresentations influenced the decision to grant him citizenship.
- ♦ [July 4, 2018](#): The son of ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi has been killed fighting Syrian forces in Homs Province, Syria.

## HOMEGROWN ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

- ♦ Cases of homegrown Islamist extremism in the U.S. continue to be an issue of concern. Since 2013, there have been 157 homegrown jihadist cases in the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, incidents included in this report span July 1 through July 31. All figures are based on open-source and government data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee.

## Recent Developments

- ♦ [July 2, 2018](#): Demetrius Nathaniel Pitts, 48, of Maple Heights, Ohio, was arrested for attempting to provide material support to Al Qaeda. Pitts pledged his allegiance to the terrorist organization, and plotted an attack on Fourth of July festivities in Cleveland. He faces up to 20 years in prison.
- ♦ [July 6, 2018](#): Aaron Travis Daniels, 21, of Columbus, Ohio, was sentenced to 80 months in prison for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Daniels met with a recruiter in December 2015, and sent funds to the terrorist group to demonstrate his loyalty. He was arrested in November 2016 when he attempted to travel to join ISIS. He will remain under court supervision for life following his release.
- ♦ [July 6, 2018](#): Sean Andrew Duncan, 22, of Sterling, Virginia, was found guilty of obstructing a counterterrorism investigation. Duncan attempted to conceal a thumb drive and memory chip when agents executed a search warrant at his house during an FBI terrorism investigation. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- ♦ [July 18, 2018](#): Amer Sinan Alhaggagi, 23, of Oakland, California, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Alhaggagi knowingly created several online identities for ISIS sympathizers, including social media and email accounts. One of the individuals he assisted was a member of the terrorist organization.
- ♦ [July 24, 2018](#): Ali Saleh, 25, of Queens, New York, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Saleh attempted to travel to join the terrorist group, funded the travel of other fighters, and disseminated bomb-making instructions. Saleh faces up to 35 years in prison.

## ISIS IN THE WEST

### Recent Developments

- ♦ [July 9, 2018](#): Amir Haskic, 23, of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, was released from custody after Bosnia's State Court found him guilty of planning to travel to join ISIS, but refraining from doing so. Haskic was in contact with members of ISIS, and devised a strategy to travel to Turkey. The court decided that despite this evidence, Haskic should be released, as he did not follow through with his plan.
- ♦ [July 14, 2018](#): Husnain Rashid, 32, of Lancashire, U.K., has been sentenced to life in prison for preparation of terrorist acts. Rashid encouraged jihadists to carry out attacks on 4-year-old Prince George. Rashid also encouraged attacks on soccer stadiums, British Army bases, and other public spaces. He intended to travel to join ISIS, and requested information on best to reach Syria.
- ♦ [July 24, 2018](#): Yasmin H., 42, of Cologne, Germany, was arrested for plotting to carry out an attack on behalf of ISIS using the toxin ricin. She is the wife of Sief Allah H., who was arrested June 12<sup>th</sup> in connection with the attack.. Prosecutors announced that 3,150 castor beans and 84.3 milligrams of ricin were found at the couples' apartment.
- ♦ [July 30, 2018](#): Agim Kruezi, 25, of Logan City, Australia, has pleaded guilty to preparation for a terrorist attack. Kruezi intended to travel to Syria to join ISIS in 2014, but had his passport cancelled. He purchased a firearm, Molotov cocktail materials, and a

bow and arrow. He was arrested in September 2014, and authorities found him in possession of terrorist and ISIS propaganda. He has been sentenced to 17 years in prison.

## **THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIST TERROR**

### ***ISIS***

#### **Operations Against ISIS**

- ◆ [July 2, 2018](#): Moroccan security services arrested four individuals aged 19 to 24 who are tied to ISIS. The four were operating a cell that connected four Moroccan cities — Casablanca, Nador, Tangier, and Tiznit. Authorities seized weapons, electronics, and documents tied to the terrorist group.

#### **Recent Non-Western ISIS Plots/Attacks**

- ◆ [July 5, 2018](#): An unidentified 33-year-old Syrian man was arrested by South Korean police for showing ISIS footage to other foreigners and asking them to join the terrorist group. The man sought asylum in South Korea in 2007, and was granted a temporary humanitarian stay visa.
- ◆ [July 7, 2018](#): Iran has executed eight men for their role in the 2017 ISIS attack on parliament and the shrine to Ayatollah Khomeini.
- ◆ [July 15, 2018](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in Kabul. The bomber used a suicide vest, and targeted ministry employees as they were leaving for the day. The attack left seven dead and more than 15 wounded.
- ◆ [July 16, 2018](#): Nafisa Pundog, wife of the ISIS-linked Maute Group leader Human Abdul Najib, has been arrested. She has been in hiding for two years since she escaped prison. The Maute Group led the attack and seizure of the town of Marawi, Philippines in 2017, which left 1,100 people dead.
- ◆ [July 20, 2018](#): A Turkish court has rejected Australia's request to extradite Neil Prakash, Australia's most notorious ISIS terrorist. Prakash, an Australian citizen, is subject to several terror-related arrest warrants. Should Turkey decide to not prosecute, he could be released from custody.

## ***AL QAEDA***

### **Operations Against Al Qaeda**

- ♦ [July 13, 2018](#): Sami A., 42, a Tunisian man living in Düsseldorf, Germany, was deported to Tunisia. Sami acted as Osama Bin Laden's bodyguard, and has been living in Germany since 1997. He was receiving more than \$1,000 a month in welfare checks.
- ♦ [July 9, 2018](#): An unidentified boy, 16, of Sutton Coldfield, U.K., has been sentenced to six years in a young offender's institute for attempted to travel in June 2017 to join Nusrah Front, a now defunct Al Qaeda affiliate.

### **Recent Al Qaeda Plots/Attacks**

- ♦ [July 2, 2018](#): Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin' (JNIM), an Al Qaeda affiliate, claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Gao, Mali, which left two dead and dozens wounded. The attack targeted patrolling French troops.
- ♦ [July 8, 2018](#): Uqba bin Nafi, an Al Qaeda affiliate, claimed responsibility for an attack which left six Tunisian soldiers dead and three wounded. The attackers targeted a convoy patrolling in Ghardimaou, Tunisia, near the Algerian border.
- ♦ [July 20, 2018](#): Khalid Ali, 28, who in April 2017 was arrested for plotting to attack Members of Parliament and police outside the House of Parliament, has been sentenced to three life sentences, and a minimum of 40 years. The FBI matched Ali's DNA to explosives recovered in Afghanistan, where he worked as a bomb maker for Al Qaeda.
- ♦ [July 23, 2018](#): Ali Charaf Damache, 53, an Alegrian-born Irish citizen, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to terrorists. Damache acted on behalf of Al Qaeda in a plot to kill a Swedish cartoonist for depicting the Prophet Mohammed in a drawing.

## ***BOKO HARAM***

### **Recent Boko Haram Attacks**

- ♦ [July 26, 2018](#): A clash between Nigerian soldiers and Boko Haram militants in Bama, Borno State, has left 20 soldiers missing. Reports state that the soldiers embarked on a clearance operation. The military has stated that 22 members of Boko Haram were neutralized.

## ***TALIBAN***

### **Operations Against the Taliban**

- ♦ [July 7, 2018](#): Qari Abdullah Dawar, a Taliban commander who had been hiding in Tor Tangai, Waziristan, has been killed in an apparent airstrike.

### **Recent Taliban Attacks**

- ♦ [July 11, 2018](#): The Pakistan Taliban has claimed a suicide attack on a political rally in Peshawar which left 20 dead. This marks the first attack since Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud assumed control of the group last month after its previous leader Mullah Fazlullah was killed in an airstrike.

## ***AL-SHABAAB***

### **Recent Al-Shabaab Attacks**

- ♦ [July 7, 2018](#): Al Shabaab militants attacked Somalia's interior ministry in Mogadishu, killing nine and wounding 13. A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives at the gate to the compound, before three armed terrorists entered the compound. Security forces killed all three after a two-hour-long firefight.
- ♦ [July 14, 2018](#): Al Shabaab attacked the presidential compound in Mogadishu, Somalia. A suicide car bomb detonated when guards fired on the driver, before an armed group of militants rushed the checkpoint. A second suicide car bomber then detonated his vehicle. Several people were killed in the attack.

## ***SELECT PLOTS/ATTACKS BY OTHER ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS***

- ♦ [July 3, 2018](#): Maksim Bozic, 28, and Edin Hastor, 46, both of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, were arrested for plotting an Islamist attack on the State Protection and Investigation Agency and interior ministry of Tuzla. The two were found in possession of grenades, automatic weapons, combat vests, and other equipment. The two were known Salafists, and cooperated with "unnamed persons" to obtain the equipment.
- ♦ [July 14, 2018](#): An unclaimed suicide bombing in Pakistan left 128 dead and 180 wounded in the deadliest attack the country has seen this year. The attacker targeted an election campaign event in Mastung, located in the southwest.
- ♦ [July 19, 2018](#): Naa'imur Rahman, 20, of London, U.K., was found guilty in the preparation of terrorist acts. Rahman plotted to detonate an IED near Downing Street, and use the ensuing chaos to assassinate Prime Minister Theresa May. The investigation was conducted by MI5, the FBI, and the Metropolitan Police. Rahman initially contacted an

FBI agent, who was undercover online, who then introduced him to online role players from both MI5 and the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.